

### **V. REMARKS**

Claim 21 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 21 is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the final Office Action, claims 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Nishikawa (JP Publication No. 2000-300729). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In Nishikawa, when a player wins a prize after rolling of reels, the symbols forming the prize are visible and other symbols are invisible.

On the other hand, in the present invention, before or during rolling of reels, the symbols to be stopped are visible and other symbols are invisible so as to inform the player about the stop order. In addition, in the present invention, the gaming machine comprises a determining device for determining whether or not the stop order is correct. Thus, when the player makes mistakes in the stop order, the whole symbols are invisible and a predetermined attraction image is displayed so as to inform the player about the mistake of the stop order.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 17 as now amended and discussed above. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the features of the applied art because such features are devoid in the applied art. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 18-22 depend from claim 17 and includes all of the features of claim 17. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 17 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicant asserts that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant hereby reserves the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

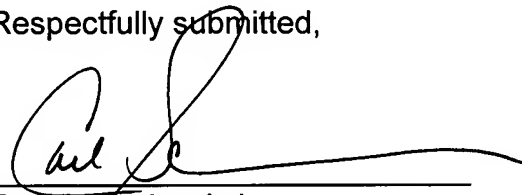
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal  
Request for Continued Examination under Rule 114

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